

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection valve, comprising:

one of a piezoelectric actuator and a magnetostrictive actuator;

a valve needle;

a valve seat surface;

a valve closing body that can be activated by the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator via the valve needle and that interacts with the valve seat surface to produce a sealing seat; and

at least one damping element including a solid that exhibits an almost static behavior at a high deformation rate and is one of elastically deformable and plastically deformable at a low deformation rate.

14. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 13, wherein:

the fuel injection valve corresponds to an injection valve for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.

15. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 13, wherein:

the solid of the at least one damping element includes a plastic.

16. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

the plastic includes an uncured silicone rubber.

17. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

the at least one damping element includes a mechanical spring exhibiting a damping behavior that is superimposed on a damping behavior of the plastic.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fuel injection valve ~~according to claim 13, further~~ comprising:

one of a piezoelectric actuator and a magnetostrictive actuator;

a valve needle;

a valve seat surface;

a valve closing body that can be activated by the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator via the valve needle and that interacts with the valve seat surface to produce a sealing seat;

at least one damping element including a solid that exhibits an almost static behavior at a high deformation rate and is one of elastically deformable and plastically deformable at a low deformation rate;

a shell;

an actuator housing including an actuator housing cover;

a prestress spring; and

a center flange, wherein:

a first face of the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator is supported against the shell, the prestress spring rests with a first end against the actuator housing cover that terminates the shell to produce the actuator housing, and a second face of the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator and a second end of the prestress spring are supported against the center flange.

19. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 18, further comprising:

a valve housing, wherein:

the at least one damping element includes a first

ring-shaped damping element and a second ring-shaped damping element, and the actuator housing together with the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator contained therein and the prestress spring has a constant length and is supported against the valve housing with another first end via the first ring-shaped damping element and with another second end via the second ring-shaped damping element.

20. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 19, wherein:

the valve needle is connected to the center flange via a welded seam.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fuel injection valve ~~according to claim 13, further~~ comprising:

one of a piezoelectric actuator and a magnetostrictive actuator;

— a valve needle;

a valve seat surface;

a valve closing body that can be activated by the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator via the valve needle and that interacts with the valve seat surface to produce a sealing seat;

at least one damping element including a solid that exhibits an almost static behavior at a high deformation rate and is one of elastically deformable and plastically deformable at a low deformation rate;

a flange; and

a cover plate, wherein:

the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator is supported with a first face thereof against the flange and with second face thereof against the cover plate.

22. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 21, further comprising:

a valve housing, wherein:

the flange is connected to the valve housing via a welded seam.

23. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 21, further comprising:

a valve shell; and

an actuating body supported at one end against the cover plate and being operably connected to the valve needle via the valve shell.

24. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 23, further comprising:

a readjusting spring; and

a flange of the valve needle, wherein:

the valve shell includes a cover plate and a base plate,

the readjusting spring and the flange of the valve needle are enclosed in the

valve shell,

the at least one damping element is arranged between the flange of the valve

needle and the base plate of the valve shell, and

the readjusting spring is clamped between the flange of the valve needle and

the cover plate of the valve shell.

25. (Previously Presented) The fuel injection valve according to claim 24, wherein:

a recess, through which the valve needle extends, is located in the base plate of

the valve shell.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fuel injection valve ~~according to claim 13, further~~ comprising:

one of a piezoelectric actuator and a magnetostrictive actuator;

a valve needle;

a valve seat surface;

a valve closing body that can be activated by the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator via the valve needle and that interacts with the valve seat surface to produce a sealing seat;

at least one damping element including a solid that exhibits an almost static behavior at a high deformation rate and is one of elastically deformable and plastically deformable at a low deformation rate;

an actuating body that acts on the valve needle, wherein:

the one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator is ring-shaped and includes a central recess through which extends the actuating body.

27. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 13, wherein the at least one damping element has a ring shape and compensates for thermal expansion of the at least one of the piezoelectric actuator and the magnetostrictive actuator.

28. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 13, wherein the at least one damping elements is disk shaped and includes a mechanical spring.